

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (canceled).
2. (currently amended) Method according to claim ~~±~~ 12, wherein an electronically activated, co-running rotary encoder roller (44) ends the reverse movement of the package band (22) at the preselected loop length (L).
3. (currently amended) Method according to claim ~~±~~ 12, wherein the loop length (L) is predetermined by measuring the stacked goods to be packaged (52), the data is entered and selectably stored for the digital control system (60).
4. (previously presented) Method according to claim 3, wherein the stacked goods to be packaged (52) are automatically measured at the beginning of the process.
5. (previously presented) Method according to claim 4, wherein necessary value corrections for the loop length (L) are entered and selectably stored.
6. (currently amended) Method according to claim ~~±~~ 12, wherein if the preselected loop length (L) is not ~~reached~~ obtained, the process is interrupted and a fault is indicated.

7. (currently amended) Method according to claim ~~±~~ 12, wherein, in addition to the preselected loop length (L), for the ending of the reverse movement of the package band (22), a maximum band tension ~~which can be~~ is selected by the control system (60), ~~preferably a digital control system,~~ is entered, and, in the event of being ~~the maximum band tension is~~ exceeded, the process is interrupted and a fault is indicated.

8. (currently amended) Method according to claim ~~±~~ 12, wherein in addition to the preselected loop length (L), for the ending of the reverse movement of the package band (22), a minimum band tension ~~which can be~~ is selected by the control system (60), is entered and, in the event of a repeated successive falling below the minimum band tension, a programmed-controlled shortening of the loop length (L) takes place, ~~or in the event of a first instance of falling below the minimum band tension, the process is interrupted and a fault is indicated.~~

9. (currently amended) Method according to claim ~~±~~ 12, wherein the packaged band is a printed package band (22) ~~is~~ positioned so as to be precisely repeatable with a printer's imprint control system.

10. (canceled).

11. (new) Method according to claim 12, wherein in addition to the preselected loop length (L), for the ending of the reverse movement of the package band (22), a minimum band tension is selected by the control system (60), is entered and, in the event of a first instance of falling below the minimum band tension, the process is interrupted and a fault is indicated.

12. (new) Method for banding stacked, soft goods to be packaged with a banding machine comprises:

guiding a package band around goods to be packaged;

pulling the guided package band onto the goods to be packaged in a reverse movement for tightening the package band around the stacked goods, wherein a preselection loop of the package band is pulled back to a preselected loop length with the aid of an electronic control system; and

fixing the package band on the goods after the preselected loop length has been reached.